

A photograph of a city skyline at sunset, with buildings illuminated and their lights reflecting on the water. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and purple.

Lessons Learned Working with Displaced Residents

National Institute of
Environmental Health Science

2006 Spring Awardee Meeting
Birmingham, Alabama

Deep South Center for Environmental Justice
Dillard University
Dr. Beverly Wright
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The Problem

Katrina Displaced Thousands





Katrina Left Behind

Debris & Hazardous Wastes

- Katrina left behind an estimated 22 million tons of debris, with more than half, 12 million tons, left in Orleans Parish.
- Flooded homes containing over one million pieces of "white goods," such as refrigerators, stoves, and freezers require disposal.
- An additional 350,000 automobiles must be drained of oil and gasoline and then recycled; 60,000 boats may need to be destroyed; and 300,000 underground fuel tanks and 42,000 tons of hazardous waste must be collected and properly disposed at licensed facilities.
- Government officials peg the numbers of cars lost in New Orleans alone at 145,000.

It Completely Destroyed Thousands of Homes



Many Others Were in Need of Repair





**I AM COMING
HOME!**

**I WILL REBUILD!
I AM NEW ORLEANS!**

Liberty Bank

Liberty Bank





Shortages of Workers



Inadequate Housing for Immigrant Workers



Affected Training Sites

- New Orleans, LA
- Baton Rouge, LA
- Biloxi/Gulfport, MS

Baton Rouge

- October Target Start Date
- Outreach and Recruitment
 - FEMA Centers
 - Shelters
 - Red Cross Centers
 - Salvation Army Centers
- Modified Counseling Component

New Orleans, La

- Outreach and Recruitment
 - Trailer Park
 - Job 1
 - Baton Rouge
 - New Orleans
 - Churches
 - Unemployment Offices
 - FEMA Centers

New Orleans, La

- Basic Skills Modifications
 - Altered training hours
 - Development of counseling component “Coping with Loss”
 - Increase in the number of counselors
 - Increased connections with service organizations

Biloxi/Gulfport

Modified Basic Skills

- Truncated to 4 weeks
- Additional Construction Skills taught during Basic Skills

Job Placement

- Continuous Day to Day Interactions with Contractors
- Development of a system for identifying new contractors as they move into the area
- Thursday's Job 1 Job Fairs
- Contact with the Mayor's Office of Economic Development and Office of Environmental Affairs

Contact Information

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